

Minutes of Water Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting of August 31, 2009

Attendees:

Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Darrin Jenkins, City of Rohnert Park
Pam Stafford, City of Rohnert Park
Laurie Gallian, City of Sonoma
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma
Toni Bertolero, City of Sonoma
Damien O'Bid, City of Cotati
Diane Lesko, City of Cotati
Dennis Rodoni, North Marin Water District
Drew McIntyre, North Marin Water District
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
Jack Baker, North Marin Water District
Paul Helliker, Marin Water District
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Deborah Fudge, Town of Windsor
Richard Burt, Town of Windsor
Robin Goble, Town of Windsor
Paul Kelley, SCWA
Efren Carrillo, SCWA
Shirlee Zane, SCWA
Michael Thompson, SCWA
Pam Jeane, SCWA
Ann DuBay, SCWA
Erica Phelps, SCWA
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Jim Flessner, SCWA
Grant Davis, SCWA
Randy Poole, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
Carrie Pollard, SCWA
Mark Bramfitt, Valley of the Moon Water District
Krishna Kumar, Valley of the Moon Water District
Richard Dowd, BPU, Santa Rosa
Stephen Gale, BPU, Santa Rosa
Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Greg Scoles, City of Santa Rosa
Glen Wright, City of Santa Rosa
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Marsha Vas Dupre, City of Santa Rosa
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Pat Fruit, City of Santa Rosa
Janet Reisner, City of Santa Rosa

Public Attendees: Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bleys Rose, Press Democrat
J. Dietrich Stroeh, CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering
Don McEnhill, League of Women Voters
Dave Smith, Merritt/Smith Consultants
Jim Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water District
H. R. Downs, O.W.L. Foundation
Mike McGuire, Healdsburg City Council
Carolyn Wasem, Airport Business Center
Colleen Fernald, RRWC
John Rosenblum, REE
Craig Thompson, Healdsburg
Claire Anderson, United Wine Growers
Bob Anderson, United Wine Growers
Gerry Nakano, West Yost
Jim Connell, West Yost
David Keller, FOER
Linda Berg
Jim Flugum, City of Healdsburg
Jane Nielson, Sebastopol Water Information Group
Cory O'Donnell, County Counsel
Steve Shupe, County Counsel
Robert B. Maddow, NMWD
Sue Nelson, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce

1. Check In:

Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. This meeting is a joint meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee. Councilman Mackenzie read a statement regarding the lack of clarity as to whether the WA TAC has acted according to the Brown Act in the past. He asked if everyone was in agreement to striking Agenda Items #9 and 10. None opposed.

2. Public Comment

Brenda Adelman wanted to go on record stating that some restaurants are still bringing water to patrons.

3. Recap from the August 3, 2009 WAC Meeting & Approval of Minutes

Councilman Mackenzie thanked the Sonoma County Water Agency for the tour of the supply system. He stated a letter was drafted to acknowledge Lynn Florey for her service and it was presented to her. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not contractors would report and record their individual water conservation efforts. WAC agreed that individual members would report on conservation methodology adopted and this will be discussed at the November meeting. Minutes will be amended to reflect this.

4. Summer 2009 Water Contractor Statistics

Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District, provided an update on the statistics that were reported and put into the Agency's report to the State on August 15. New statistics need to be in to the TAC by September 8 for the September 15 report.

5. SCWA Temporary Impairment/Allocation of Water Deliveries

Chris DeGabriele stated TAC members met mid August and reviewed all data, including the Lake Mendocino storage. Levels are the same as in 2007. There will be water available for the Chinook Salmon releases. The SCWA is on schedule with deliveries and reduced diversion requirements. Contractors are on schedule with conservation. No alternative allocation necessary at this time. Public comment was in favor of each contractor showing their individual water usage savings and percentage of conservation. Discussion continued regarding whether to record and compare individual contractors' usage and conservation efforts.

Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma, moved that the Water Contractor Statistics show the percentage of reduction for each contractor's total water usage on a monthly basis for the summer month statistics. Susan Gorin seconded the motion for the purposes of discussion. WAC agreed that individual members report on conservation methodology and this be discussed at the November meeting. All voted in favor with the exception of City of Sonoma which voted no.

6. Biological Opinion Status Update

Matt Vail, SCWA, updated the committee on the status of the Biological Opinion. The Agency is working on an updated software project modeling the Russian River flows. They are working on public outreach by meeting with Dry Creek Valley Property owners and analyzing raising the levels in the estuary. They are in negotiations with Public Works regarding the stream crossings. There is ongoing HDR analysis of the pipeline. The cost estimate of instream habitat Dry Creek restoration is \$30 million. The financial assurance needed by the Department of Fish and Game was by letter of credit.

The suggestion was made that this report be put in bullet format in the future.

7. SCWA Water Project Redirection and New Water Supply Strategies

Discussed the action items from the Sonoma County Board Meeting. The Board will be reconvening on September 15. Discussion was centered on the time constraints given and the desire of the Agency to act quickly without TAC or WAC having the opportunity to review the items. Chris DeGabriele suggested the Agency prioritize the implementation of the water project redirection by first working with contractors to meet reasonable expected water demands of customers. He asked that WAC consider the resolutions presented and to select one to propose to the SCWA Board for the September 15 meeting. Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma moved to adopt Alternative #2. The motion was seconded by Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa. All were in favor of adopting Alternative # 2 with none opposed.

Chris DeGabriele brought up the question of holding closed door sessions using common counsel to make a formal evaluation from a legal perspective. Suggested using a delegated party member to determine and share information with the TAC. Susan Gorin, City of Santa Rosa, said she would be willing to act as recipient and representative.

Jake Mackenzie read a prepared statement regarding WAC seeking legal advice.

8. Items for Next Agenda

- Follow up on discussion regarding individual contractor's conservation efforts and reporting.
- Report from Board of Directors Meeting September 15 meeting.
- New Water Supply Strategies

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Water Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Upper Russian River Water Districts

September 23, 2009 10:00 to 12:00

Mendocino County Water Agency

Large Conference Room

Agenda

- 1. Review Agenda**
- 2. Current conservation measures and estimated water savings.**
- 3. Other Water District Updates**
 - Calpella
 - Hopland
 - MCWA
 - Millview
 - Redwood Valley
 - River Estates
 - Rogina
 - Russian River
 - Willow
 - Ukiah
- 5. Save Our Water Campaign**
 - Bus panels
 - Radio PSAs
 - Next steps
 - Invoices
- 6. Water Conservation Poster Contest**
 - Poster display venues
- 7. Announcements**
- 8. New Tasks or Assignments**
- 9. Schedule next meeting**

**Upper Russian River Water Districts
Notes from September 23, 2009**

Present: Brandy Wood, City of Ukiah
Quinton Roland, City of Willits
Bill Kohler, Redwood Valley County Water District
Diane Lesko & Heather Bauman, Sonoma County Water Agency
Roland Sanford & Joe Scriven, Mendocino County Water Agency

Absent: Calpella, Hopland, Millview, River Estates, Russian River, and Willow

District Updates

Mendocino County Water Agency:

- A few residential water audits performed over the past month.
- Response to a recent water waster call could not locate the culprit. Joe decided that future calls will be forwarded to the appropriate water district since he has no enforcement authority.
- The Eel/Russian River Commission met in Eureka last month for which the MCWA provides administrative services.
- A small grant for "Rain Gardens in Ukiah Valley Schools" was approved, and the curriculum has been developed.
- Joe participated in a radio interview on KZYX with the Executive Director of Friends of the Eel River. The topic was water and the future of salmonids in the Outlet Creek basin. Of course there were a few calls about the Potter Valley diversion.

Redwood Valley County Water District

- An interview with the local newspaper is coming up and will cover water rate changes. They have had no changes since 2001 even though electricity costs have increased a lot.
- Sonoma County Water Agency is their supplier, not the Russian River Flood Control.
- They are diverting 47% compared to 2004 data, thus reflecting a 53% decrease.
- Redwood Valley has seen a 25% reduction in the grape crop due to water scarcity. This will have a significant impact on the local economy.
- Excessive water users have received the surcharge, which began in July. Bill explained the surcharge formula which is based upon the average monthly usage over the last five years. It does not work well for people who have been effectively conserving over the last three years.
- The Board is going through the process of re-writing the rules so when the lake drops to a certain level then rates will increase accordingly. The Board has changed its meeting from once per month to once per week.
- As a signatory to the CUWCC they have to follow the BMPs, including the tiered rate guidelines.

- The district has an ordinance that allows for installation of flow restrictors after two months of non-compliance. They probably won't need to enforce it this year if the rains arrive in November.
- Customers who use less than 2,000 gallons per month will see a 2% increase in their bill. Agriculture customers pay \$150 per acre foot. This summer they have had some difficult interactions with some angry farmers.
- Tiered rates are in the process of being adjusted. One percent of their customers use over 20,000 gallons per month, and they will be the ones hardest hit with the bigger bills.

General discussion about excessive water users not wanting to change their behavior. What types of leverage are available: peer pressure, punitive billing, flow restrictor threats? If there is no legal mandate, then don't expect a behavior change.

City of Ukiah

- Two new wells are still under construction.
- In August 70% of their water use was from the Russian River. In July 40% was from the river. The sharp increase was probably due to landscape watering.
- Brandy has gone to some classes to teach water conservation to students.
- The radio PSA is still being aired.
- They hired a consultant to evaluate a tiered rate structure.
- They are talking with the high water users monthly to help them use less.
- There are a lot of brown lawns in the city, indicating that several people are serious about conservation.
- Not as many water waster calls in August compared to June and July.
- Sending letters to violators (gutter flooders) has been effective in changing behavior. They have not needed to install any flow restrictors yet.
- Overall water use is 33% less than in 2004. Although the data has not been sorted out, it is likely that the City has exceeded its 50% reduction of Russian River water.
- The grand opening of the wastewater facility and potential to sell reclaimed water are on the horizon. The plan is to sell 4,000 acre feet of reclaimed water per year.

Sonoma County Water Agency

- Heather said that Milestone 3 report was sent on Sept. 15, and the Milestone 4 will be due to her by October 8.
- Diane will locate the latest projection of Lake Mendocino levels and send them to the team.
- Discussion about SCWA needing to reduce by 25% and some retailers not wanting to be separated from the group because they have not met their target.

City of Willits

- Even though the City is decreasing its workforce due to budget issues, they did create the Water Conservation Specialist position. The idea is that this position will pay dividends in water quantity, quality, and innovative solutions.
- Quinton provided a brief background on the water story for Willits. Outlet Creek watershed provides primarily well water, and the Davis Creek watershed provides surface water with its reservoirs. The water treatment plant is constantly over-worked. There is a potential quantity issue in the summer and a turbidity issue during winter months. Their tiered rate structure was recently established. There is a new wastewater treatment facility. A recent study identified two wells to help with supply, but several neighbors expressed anger at the possibility of lower water quality at their wells. That project has been shelved for now.
- Bill mentioned that the core of the water treatment plant is a "Trident" which is known for doing poorly in highly turbid waters.
- One looming issue that Quinton will be dealing with involves the connections outside of the city limits that do not have to abide by city law. Bill said Quinton will likely deal with LAFCO on that issue.

Save Our Water Campaign

The two bus panels were displayed along the wall next to the Upper Russian Water Districts logo. Joe asked if anyone wanted to use them for a project since the group owns the panels. Roland suggested that we put the panels back on the buses for another month. Joe will find out what the rest of the team thinks and go from there.

Other

Roland said there will be a Drought Workshop with Supervisors Brown and McCowen in late October. The feeling is that the County should stay the course of conservation until the lake begins to fill back up. There has been some reference that the El Nino pattern could be weakening, which could mean a dry winter.

Next Meeting: October 21 at 10:00 am

North Coast Water Conservation Group

Goal: The North Coast Water Conservation Group will bring together Water Conservation Specialists and Coordinators in Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino Counties to share current water conservation issues.

Date: 10:00am on Thursday, September 24, 2009

Location: SCWA Office, 404 Aviation Blvd, Santa Rosa

R.S.V.P.: Heather Bauman, SCWA ~ 547-1942 or heather.bauman@scwa.ca.gov

Participants: Water Agencies: Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

Agenda:

1. Self Introductions
2. 3rd Monthly Conservation Report through August 31st – Heather
3. 4th Monthly Conservation Report: September data needed by October 8th- Heather
4. WAC/TAC Update – Carrie/Diane
5. Conservation and water waste reduction programs being implemented to comply with SWRCB Order - everyone
6. CUWCC update- Carrie
7. DWR's Model Landscape Ordinance, Coordinating locally & new deadline –Diane & Dan
8. Adopted Grey Water Regulations – Diane
9. Future meetings and Conferences:
 - October 5-8 AWWA CA-NV My Bet's on Water!
 - October 7-9 Water Smart Innovations
 - November 4 Bay Area Coordinators Meeting- Millbrae
10. Other Items of Interest – All
11. Next meeting: 10:00am on Thursday, October 29, 2009

North Coast Water Conservation Group

September 24, 2009, 10 – 12 pm, Redwood Room, SCWA, Santa Rosa, CA

Next Scheduled Meeting: 10:00 on Thursday, October 29, 2009

Start Time: 10:03

Attendees:

1. SCWA Ali Davidson, Brian Lee, Carrie Pollard, Heather Bauman, Diane Lesko, Tim Anderson
2. Shiko Njuno, City of Cotati
3. Steve Mack, Sweetwater Springs WD
4. Brandy Wood, City of Ukiah
5. Bill Koehler, Redwood Valley County Water District
6. Paul Piazza, Town of Windsor
7. Dave Iribarne, City of Petaluma
8. Mara Hockman, Green Business Program, EDB
9. Darren Ball, Environmental Business Alliance, EDB
10. Joe Scriven, Mendocino County Water Agency
11. Trent Hudson, City of Sonoma
12. Ryan Grisso, North Marin Water District
13. Evan Jacobs, Cal Am

Agenda:

1. Self Introductions
2. 3rd Monthly Conservation Report through August 31st - Heather
 - a. Posted on web site
3. 4th Monthly Conservation Report: September data needed by Oct 8th

Question: Upper Russian River, Steve Mack

Do you want production numbers? Or Sales?

SCWA needs production numbers

4. WAC/TAC Update – Carrie/Diane
 - Restaurants/Hotels water table tents are available – see Carrie or Darren
 - WAC/TAC are compiling a November report outlining each water providers conservation program. Diane recently updated the matrix detailing said programs.

5. Conservation and water waste reduction programs being implemented to comply with SWRCB Order – all

City of Cotati, Shiko Njuno

- a. Cash for Grass has 3 applications
- b. Retrofitted mini-park working with Daily Acts to mulch, cardboard, irrigation, planting (program to model Cash 4 Grass)
- c. Water budgets program: letters have been sent to confirm lot size and # of residents

Mendocino County Water Agency, Joe Scriven

- a. Save our Water program on board
- b. Continuing “Dusty Baker” program Save our Water campaign from Hopland to Redwood valley

City of Petaluma, Dave Iribarne

- a. Stage One continues
- b. Oct. 24 community gardens, rainwater catchment display Rebuilding Together Pet, Daily Acts and others

City of Sonoma, Trent Hudson

- a. 31% from water purchased from RR

Evan Jacobs, Cal Am

- a. Oct. 6th Hearing on Water conservation

Steve Mack, Russian River (Guerneville, Monte Rio)

- a. Tourists bump up water use
- b. Lack of coordination between SCWA and retailers

North Marin Water District, Ryan Grisso

- a. Cash for Grass
- b. Audits
- c. Weather based controllers for schools

Town of Windsor, Paul Piazza

- a. Declared State 2 Emergency on July 1, 2009.
- b. Meeting 20% of conservation goal/reduction in diversion with the State benchmark to 2004.

Redwood Valley, Bill Koehler

- a. Stage 4 Reduction
- b. 54% reduction
- c. Waiting until Lake Mendo starts to fill before the Council will lift Order

City of Ukiah, Brandy Wood

- a. Stage One
- b. Bus signs
- c. Letters to top water users
- d. Mandates: restaurants, no gutter flooding
- e. Water patrolling
- f. Thank you letters to folks conserving
- g. Farmers Market
- h. School presentation
- i. City Hall toilet replacement

Mendocino Co. Water District, Joe Scriven

- a. Save Our Water programs for bus and radio
- b. Water Waster calls are given to the district that it originates from
- c. Water audits are not very popular
- d. Water Ed Program looks at water quantity and quality thru NPDES water permit program K-6

6. CUWCC update – Carrie

- Reporting will be an option of Flextrac or old data base method
- Reporting for the FY will be the new data base method
- Equivalency table will be available
- Dues Error: some contractors should be aware that they are showing not paying dues

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7. DWR's Model Landscape Ordinance, Coordinating locally & new deadline – Diane/Dan

- CA WELO group (Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino attended)
- Will go into effect Jan 1, 2010
- Calculations and worksheets are available

- Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) is working on adoption of the Ord and will be adopted 1/1/2010

8. Adopted Greywater Regulations – Diane

- Approved and in effect as a new standard
- A link on the SCWA site will be up soon
- PRMD will handle the Co of Sonoma (the county was changing requirement of permit – see their website)

9. Future meetings and Conferences:

- September 16th CUWCC Plenary in Santa Barbara
- October 5-8 AWWA CA-NV My Bet's on Water!, Las Vegas
- October 7-9 Water Smart Innovations, Las Vegas
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10. Other Items of Interest – All

Question from Paul Piazza – has there been any discussion from WAC/TAC regarding rescinding the Orders? The Agency hasn't taken an official stand on this and this is a problematic for local programs.

Tim Anderson: the Agency does not recommend relaxing restrictions because we have had no rain. Until we see the reservoirs respond the Agency thinks it is premature.

Comment from Bill Koehler: The impact on Redwood Valley alone is 25% hit on grape crop. Anything we can do to get this area viewed as a watershed would be helpful. We get a million visitors annually.

Comment from Steve Mack: People in the lower river see the river below 50 cfs and see Lake Mendocino filling. We need more info on what is going on.

Tim: flow levels are regulated by the State Water Board.

Comment from Steve Mack.: minimum flows are a floor, not a ceiling. An appropriate amount of water could have been kept in the river.

Questions from Ryan Grisso: will SCWA have authority to mandate continuing conservation?

Tim: we have no authority to do this.

Comment from Paul Piazza: Windsor would like the SCWA to come request contractors continue with the Order.

Comment from Steve Mack: the State Boards date is a regulatory date (Oct.2). The info of the lake level being important was never discussed in the Guerneville area – it was only about the Chinook fish. I would like to see a 'coordinated message'.

Comment from Mandy Wood: it would be premature to stop conserving water. Last year Ukiah had no recreational use. The chinook are key, water supply is as well. From Hopland north, the message is keep water in Lake Mendo to prevent water coming out of the tributaries.

Question from Bill Koelher: If we hit 30,000 it will be dire. We need to look at this holistically. Will SCWA ask for the Order to be extended?

Tim: We have Board orders to seek and file extensions but I am not aware of any State Board direction to extend the Order.

11. Next meeting: 10:00 am on Thursday, October 29, 2009

Meeting concluded: 11:03 am